

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 DODE-00 NSCE-00 NSC-10

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EUR-10 RSR-01 /054 W

----- 127917

R 031414 Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5433

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TANANARIVE 0892/1

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MA, US, FR

SUBJ: DATT AIRCRAFT

DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM:

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS DIA FOR AA/8

BEGIN SUMMARY: FONMIN RATSIRAKA HAS RAISED QUESTION OF CONTINUED PRESENCE DATT AIRCRAFT IN MADAGASCAR IN VIEW FACT FRENCH WILL BE PERMITTED TO STATION NO MILITARY AIRCRAFT AT TANANARIVE. FROM LONG DISCUSSION I CONCLUDE IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE INDUCE GOMR AGREE CONTINUED PRESENCE DATT AIRCRAFT, AT LEAST AS LONG AS FRENCH MILITARY RETAIN AN AIRCRAFT AT DIEGO- SUAREZ, PROVIDED WE AGREE REPAIR DATT AIRCRAFT BY AIR MADAGASCAR AND DISCONTINUATION ITS TRIPS TO SOUTH AFRICA EXCEPT FOR REAL EMERGENCIES. DEPT/ DIA VIEWS REQUESTED PRIOR FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH RATSIRAKA. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING MY FINAL TALK WITH MALAGASY FONMIN RATSIRAKA 29 JUN BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR JAPAN, HE RAISED QUESTION OF CONTINUED PRESENCE OF DATT AIRCRAFT IN MADAGASCAR.

2. HE SAID MATTER HAD FIRST BEEN BROUGHT UP UNEXPECTEDLY WITH HIM PREVIOUS EVENING IN TERMS OF WHY OR HOW AMERICAN MILITARY

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AIRCRAFT COULD CONTINUE BE STATIONED PERMANADP000
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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSCE-00 NSC-10 EUR-10 RSR-01 /054 W

----- 123700

R 031440 Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5434

C O N F I D E N T I A L FINAL SECTION OF 2 TANANARIVE 0892/2

LIMDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM
DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS DIA FOR AA/8

7. RATSIRAKA RAISED AGAIN (AS HE HAD EARLIER THIS YEAR)
SWITCHING OF MAINTENANCE OF DATT PLANE FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO
AIR MADAGASCAR FACILITIES. I EXPLAINED THAT STUDY HAD
SHOWN MAINTENANCE WOULD BE MORE EXPENSIVE HERE, AND THAT C-47
TO BE REPLACED BY ANOTHER TYPE AIRCRAFT WHICH AIR MADAGASCAR
WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE EQUIPPED MAINTAIN. COST ARGUMENT CUT
NO ICE WITH HIM, AS HE SAID THAT, IF BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS
GOVERNING, IT WOULD BE CHEAPER FOR US PERSONNEL USE AIR
MADAGASCAR THAN HAVE AIRPLANE IN MADAGASCAR AT ALL. HE ALSO
STATED THAT MAINTENANCE OF DATT AIRCRAFT IN SOUTH AFRICA
RAISES POLITICAL PROBLEMS FROM GOMR IN VIEW MALAGASYSENTIMENT
ABOUT
SOUTH AFRICA. HE QUITE INSISTENT MAINTENANCE SHOULD BE DONE IN
MADAGASCAR IF PLANE STAYS HERE.

8. PROSPECT OF REPLACEMENT OF DATT C-47 BY ANOTHER AIRCRAFT
PROMPTED HIM SUGGEST C-47 BE GIVEN GOMR RATHER THAN SCRAPPED.
(HE HAD EARLIER THIS YEAR RAISED POSSIBILITY ACQUISITION C-47' S
FROM US. SEE TANANARIVE 0040.) I REPLIED THAT GRANT OF C-47
WOULD RAISE PROBLEMS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM MADAGASCAR
WHICH, AS HE KNEW FROM OTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH ME, DIFFICULT AND
COMPLICATED SUBJECT. NOTING THAT THERE WOULD PROBABLY STILL BE
COMMERCIAL MARKET FOR C-47 WHEN DATT USE PHASED OUT, I ASKED
WHETHER GOMR WOULD WANT PRUCHASE IT. HE NOT PREPARED REPLY ON
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THAT SCORE.

9. RATSIRAKA CLOSED BY ASKING ME REFLECT FURTHER ON THIS SUBJECT AND BE PREPARED DISCUSS IT WITH HIM LATER. SINCE HE MAY NOT RETURN MADAGASCAR BETWEEN VISITS TO JAPAN AND US, HE INDICATED HE MIGHT TAKE MATTERUPWHILE HE WAS IN WASH. IF DONE, I SUGGESTED HE DO SO WITH NEWSOM RATHER THAN AT HIGHER LEVEL AS HE FIRST PROPOSED.

10. MY CONCLUSION IS THAT WE CAN ARGUE THAT DATT PLANE SHOULD REMAIN TANANRIVE, AT LEAST AS LONG AS FRENCH MILITARY KEEP AN AIRCRAFT AT DIEGO- SUAREZ (WHICH PROBABLY WILL BE FOR TWO YEARS FRENCH CAN RETAIN NAVAL PERSONNEL THERE), SINCE PRESENCE LATTER GIVES GOMR PEG ON WHICH HANG AGREEMENT TO DATT ARICRAFT. WHILE RATSIRAKA REFERRED IN PASSING TO FRENCH AIRCRAFT AT DIEGO- SUAREZ, I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE PREPARED LINK PRESENCE DATT PLANE IN TANANARIVE TO FRENCH PLANE THERE. I BELIEVE WE WILL HAVE FAIRLY GOOD CHANCE CONVINCING HIM LET US KEEP DATT PLANE IN TANANARIVE IF DOD/ DIA PREPARED AGREE HAVE FUTURE MAINTENANCE DONE BY AIR MADAGASCAR (IF NECESSARY, BY CANCELLATION CONTRACT WITH SOUTH AFRICAN FIRM FOR CONVENIENCE OF GOVERNMENT) AND ALL FLIGHTS BY DATT AIRCRAFT TO SOUTH AFRICA ARE ELIMINATED EXCEPT FOR REAL EMERGENCIES. UNLESS WE PREPARED AGREE TO THESE CONDITIONS, I AM AFRAID MALAGASY DECISION ON CONTINUED PRESENCE WETT AIRCRAFT WILL BE NEGATIVE.

11. ON LONGER RANGE STATUS DATT AIRCRAFT AFTER FRENCH PLANE WITHDRAWAL FROM DIEGO- SUAREZ, I SUGGEST THIS BE LEFT OPEN FOR NOW. POSSIBLY IN TWO YEARS MALAGASY DISTRUST OF FRENCH MIGHT HAVE SUFFICIENTLY ABATED TO PERMIT FRENCH STATION MILITARY AIRCRAFT AT TANANARIVE.

12. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT/ DIA COMMENTS PRIOR JULY 12 IN CASE RATSIRAKA RETURNS MADAGASCAR BEFORE VISIT TO US SINCE HE WOULD THEN EXPECT ME RENEW DISCUSSION WITH HIM.

13. THIS MESSAGE COORDINATED WITH DATT. LIKE EMBASSY, DATT WOULD NOT LIKE LOSE AIRCRAFT FOR USE IN MADAGASCAR. DATT CONCURS IN CONCLUSIONS IN PARA 10 ABOVE. MENDENHALL

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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